

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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## **Reckless Driving - More Than Just Driving Too Fast and Too Furious**

The Washington State Patrol is concerned with the number of vehicles traveling at high speeds and weaving in and out of traffic. When the speeds start to reach 90 mph or more it is not just a speeding ticket.

"When caught, these drivers can be arrested and booked into jail for Reckless Driving." Said Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste.

Who are the people driving that fast? They are not all hardened criminals trying to escape the law. They are employees who are late for work. The young person doing a wheelie on a powerful motorcycle. The mom who just got a brand new vehicle that has a speedometer that reads 160 mph and wants to see how fast it will really go. People who may not realize the penalty for driving that fast isn't just a more expensive speeding ticket, it could be jail time.

Reckless driving is dangerous and has the potential to cause tremendous property damage and loss of life. According to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, excessive speed is the second-most commonly cited driver error, accounting for 38% of all fatal crashes over the past five years in the State of Washington.

Reckless Driving is driving any vehicle - car, truck, minivan, motorcycle - in a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property

In the State of Washington, Reckless Driving is a Criminal Traffic Offence punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000.00 and jail time not to exceed one year. In addition to the penalties assessed by the Courts the offender will also have to pay the tow and storage bill to get the vehicle out of impound.

Along with the possibility of fines, jail time, and tow bill there is also the fact when a driver is convicted of Reckless Driving three times with in a two year period his or her driver's license will be Revoked by the Department of Licensing.

In 2007 the State Patrol contacted or arrested 1,320 drivers for Reckless Driving. Please Drive Carefully.